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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Simultaneously with the announcement by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences on Thursday, March 10th, that

"The Museum of Modern Art Film Library has been judged worthy of the Academy's Special Award for its significant work in collecting films dating from 1895 to the present day and for the first time making available to the public the means of studying the historical and aesthetic development of the motion picture as one of the major arts"

the Film Library received an acquisition of great importance from David Wark Griffith. Mr. Griffith has handed over to the Film Library an enormous quantity of material covering his work in the motion picture from the time he made his first full-length film, Judith of Bethulia, in 1913 through Isn't Life Wonderful, in 1924. The films received, totalling a quarter of a million feet, also include Intolerance (1916), Hearts of the World (1918), Broken Blossoms (1919), Orphans of the Storm (1922), One Exciting Night (1923) and America (1924). The printed material alone fills half a room at the Film Library's headquarters and includes thousands of stills, many copies of musical scores with orchestrations for fifteen productions, voluminous press books and scrap books of clippings, correspondence, business papers and other memorabilia covering more than a decade of Mr. Griffith's career.

With this accession the Film Library now rounds out an almost complete record of the work of this extraordinary man, from the day he first appeared on the screen as an actor in Rescued from an Eagle's Nest (1907) through the period when he developed and extended motion picture technique (as in The New York Hat (1912), given to the Film Library by Miss Mary Pickford in 1935) to the making of his epic Birth of a Nation (1915) and the later films now acquired.

A. Conger Goodyear, President of the Museum of Modern Art, has made the following statement in regard to the Academy award and the Griffith acquisition: "Three years ago the Museum received a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation to organize the motion picture department planned when the Museum itself was founded in 1929. In May, 1935, the Museum of Modern Art Film Library was established with John Hay Whitney as President, John E. Abbott as Director, and Iris Barry as

Curator. It is very gratifying to the parent organization to have the success of the Film Library recognized by a Special Award from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the highest honor in Hollywood - and, I believe, the first time such an Award has been made to any institution outside the film industry itself. It is also a matter of the greatest satisfaction to receive a gift of such permanent value from David Wark Griffith, whose genius contributed so much towards developing the motion picture and giving it the leading position it occupies in the world today."

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